

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

"The Lower Silesian Chemical Plants in Zarow" includes information on the organization, current and planned production, and equipment of the former German "Silesia" chemical plant. The seven production departments included a sulphuric acid department, a dry paints department, a lithopone department, an accelerator department, a Thiokol department, a nitro compound department, and a mill for grinding materials.

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COUNTRY : Poland

DATE: 5 December 1957

SUBJECT : The Lower Silesian Chemical Plants in Zarow

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Organization

1. The Lower Silesian Chemical Plants (Dolnoslaskie Zaklady Chemiczne) in Zarow (N 50-57, E 16-30) was a former German chemical enterprise known as "Silesia" which had been in existence for about 100 years. It was located one-half kilometer from the Zarow railroad station and was connected to it by a siding. Beginning on 1 January 1957 the Zarow enterprise was placed under the Central Administration of Organic Industry "Erg" because its production fell into the organic category. Before this date, it had been controlled by the Central Administration of Inorganic Industry.

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2. The director of the plants was Staczek (fmu) while the chief engineer was Dipl. Engineer Piotrowski (fmu); both were poor administrators with limited experience.

[redacted] there was a deputy director for administrative and commercial matters, and a director for investments.

3. [redacted] the plants employed about 1,200 workers working on three shifts daily. Women were employed in the Dry Paints Department, the laboratory, and in the administration. There was a shortage of qualified executive and technical personnel. Those who were employed were below standard level. The workers came mainly from the town of Zarow and nearby villages; many of them had worked in the Zarow plants for several years.

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4. [redacted] the Zarow plants had the following seven production departments:

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a. Sulphuric Acid Department (Oddzial Kwasu Siarkowego)

This was an old pre-war installation which had been remodeled after WW II. It had three ovens and the production method was a mixed chamber process. It was planned to construct a fourth oven in 1957. The department's production capacity was 18,000 tons yearly; about 12,000 tons had been produced in 1956, and about 15,000 tons were planned for 1957. Imported pyrites and low-grade pyrites of Polish production were used as raw materials. Sulphuric acid was produced for the use of the chemical industry.

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b. Dry Paints Department (Oddzial Farb Suchych)

This department was housed in an old building; a new building was already completed in May 1957 but had not yet been taken over for production. Barium sulphate of Polish production and the plant-produced pigments were used as raw materials. The production plan for 1957 was about 600 tons.

c. Lithopone Department (Oddzial Litoponu)

This department was housed in an old pre-war installation. A new reduction oven was to be built in 1957-58. Barium sulphate was used as a raw material in the production of lithopone imported from Yugoslavia. The department's production plan for 1957 called for a yearly production capacity of 220 tons.

d. Accelerator Department (Oddzial Przyspieszacy)

The Accelerator Department produced accelerators on a semi-technical scale for the rubber and tanning industries. One section, located in an old building, produced accelerators Type "T", "M", and "DM". In 1957 a new building was constructed and new equipment installed for the production of accelerators Type "T", "1000" and "Cerlat". The old installation for the production of accelerators Type "T" was to be closed. The production capacity of the old section was about 200 tons yearly. The production of the new section was to be 60 tons during 1957 and was expected to be increased later to 300 tons.

e. Thiokol Department (Oddzial Tickoli)

Source knew only that this department was housed in an old installation and produced an unknown quantity of sheet products, under different trade names, for the electro-technical and rubber industries.

f. Nitro Compounds Department (Oddzial Nitrozwiaskow)

This department was located in three buildings, two of which were used for production, and the third for processing of mixed ortho-metaparanitrotoluene for the metallurgical industry. In 1958 this department was to close down production, and the entire installation was to be transferred to Chemical Plant #9 in Legnowo.

g. Mill for Grinding Minerals Department (Mielarnia Mineralow)

~~THIS~~ mill ground minerals, mainly barium sulphate, for the Dry Paints Department; it operated on two shifts daily. The mill was of Polish production.

Equipment and Machinery

5. Electric current was supplied from the national electric power net. Although the enterprise had its own boiler house, additional boilers had to be installed in the production buildings of the Nitro Compounds Department because the existing boiler house was old and did not produce sufficient steam. Plans were underway to construct a new boiler house. Up to 1957 the enterprise obtained its water supply from an artificial pond where rain water was collected. This water supply was insufficient, and in 1957 a pipe line had been constructed to bring water from a nearby river. The enterprise had no installations for purifying sewage.

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6. All the equipment and machinery in the enterprise were worn-out and obsolete; they were mainly of German and Polish manufacture.

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[redacted] The processes of loading, unloading, and handling of goods were partly mechanized.¹

Comment.

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1. [redacted] working conditions at the Lower Silesian Chemical Plants were considered among the worst of all the plants under "Erg" and that the enterprise was kept in operation only because its products, especially accelerators, were needed.

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